**Product:**

One essay, approximately 2-3 pages.

**Process:**

1. Choose a film. You’re open to any piece of legitimate cinema you want. I recommend you choose a movie you are comfortable with, and have seen before.
2. Decide: what is this movie about? What message(s) or theme(s) is this movie trying to get across?
3. Examine the genre of this movie. What KIND of movie is this?
4. Based on this message, take accurate notes of the entire movie! You are looking for aspects of **mise en scene, cinematography, sound design, and editing.** When taking notes, don’t worry about writing down every little moment. Instead, focus on scenes, shots, and ideas that you feel supports the messages and themes you’ve identified. **You will quite likely need to see this movie several times over the course of this essay, so choose one you can keep for a while!**
   1. Consider the “class” of main characters, how they interact with other characters, and their fates. For example, a main character who treats the women in his life poorly, yet gets a happy ending, might be passing along the message that this behavior is OK.
5. Based on your notes, and the genre of the film (review your previous notes on genre as well as a little online research, as needed), come to a thesis statement answering this question:

How is your movie a good representation of its genre?

1. You will then create an essay answering this question, using **cinematic elements** to support your argument.

**Parameters:**

This essay will have a full introduction, in which you lay out what genre your film is, transitioning into a declarative thesis statement, backed up by **no fewer than three** supporting examples. These supporting examples MUST be specifically ground into cinematic principles. This introduction will be **at least 150 words.**

You will then have at least 3 body paragraphs supporting your thesis. Each body paragraph must have a topic sentence, context, a concrete (specific!) detail, analysis, and concluding paragraph. In order to receive high credit, you must tie your supporting details back to your thesis. Be specific, stay on topic, and clearly explain why your concrete detail supports your thesis. Each body paragraph must be a minimum of **12 sentences**. Please refer back to class lectures, and other English classes, for writing structure.

Finally, you MUST have a conclusion. Typical protocol is to begin with a variation of your thesis, and then work on explaining to me how all off the supporting elements you’ve presented work together to create a whole which supports your thesis. Whatever information you presented in your introduction must be wrapped up in your conclusion. This conclusion will need to be **approximately 100 words.**

**Point Totals:**

This project will be worth **360 points**, which is a good portion of your total grade. Students doing poorly at this point have a chance to improve, and students doing well should NOT blow this assignment off.

**Due Dates:**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Film Selection: Due May 24th

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Film notes, thesis statement: Due May 28th

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Written introduction: Due June 1st

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Final Essay: due no later than June 7th